

# Living by the Lake

LAKE ONTARIO INTEGRATED SHORELINE STRATEGY - NEWSLETTER - ISSUE SEVEN - OCT 2014



Monarch butterfly

## **SOUTH-BOUND:** *Migratory wildlife begin their long journey south*

*Fall migration is upon us. Birds, bats and butterflies follow their ancient Atlantic and Mississippi migratory routes to their southern winter homes.*

The Great Lakes are huge obstacles on their journey. Some choose to fly right over the large water bodies, while others take the longer route around the lakes. Most birds and butterflies make the long trek to Central and South America. The eastern red bat, hoary bat and silver-haired bat migrate to warmer climates, while others such as the little brown bat travel less than 1,000 kilometers. These bats look for warmer locations nearby (caves, mines etc.) to hibernate during the winter months.

The shores of the Great Lakes are an important feeding ground and rest

stop for these animals. They provide the necessary food to fuel their long flights. Birds and butterflies depend on berries, seeds and nectar during fall migration. High sugar, low fat fruits and seeds are rich in energy and allow birds to quickly refuel before their long flights. Great Lakes bats feed on moths, flies, beetles, ants and other insects en route.

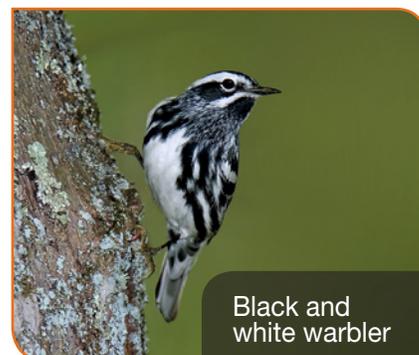
Small green spaces make a difference for animal migration. Backyards, parks and natural areas are rest stops that help birds survive their long journey. Homeowners and businesses can plant flowers and fruiting plants to help fuel animals during their migration. These plants attract insects that benefit migratory animals and pollinate other plants to keep your garden healthy.

### **Make Migration Easier**

CVC's Your Green Yard program has resources and information on

habitat gardening in your home landscape. Visit [creditvalleyca.ca/landscaping](http://creditvalleyca.ca/landscaping) for resources and [creditvalleyca.ca/ygy](http://creditvalleyca.ca/ygy) for program information, including workshops and presentations in your area.

CVC's Greening Corporate Grounds program helps businesses and institutions create healthy habitat on their grounds and provides opportunities for engaging employees in the process. Visit [creditvalleyca.ca/gcg](http://creditvalleyca.ca/gcg) for more information and resources.



Black and white warbler

## ON THE FRONT LINE: RESTORING RATTRAY MARSH



CVC staff sight native wildlife during Rattray Marsh restoration

*Rattray Marsh has seen many changes over the past year. CVC completed the first phase of the Rattray Restoration Plan and is now putting phase two into place. This will restore the south side of the marsh.*

CVC staff have been in the marsh since April operating carp barriers. Common carp are an invasive fish species. They enter the marsh in early spring to lay eggs. They kick up sediment while spawning, which reduces water quality.

So far, a total of 47 carp have been caught, compared to 182 caught in 2013. Carp barriers were damaged during the carp spawning period, which allowed carp to enter the restored area of phase one. CVC staff caught many carp and repaired the damaged barrier. Since repairs were made, CVC staff observed

adult pike spawning in the marsh. Keeping carp out is an important part of the restoration and overall health of the marsh.

In phase one, CVC staff planted eight different species of aquatic plants. This increases plant life variety in the marsh. The plants are protected using plastic enclosures that stop animals from eating them or being damaged by carp.

### *Working Around Wildlife*

Over 625 metres of fence was installed around the phase two work area. The fence prevents wildlife (fish, muskrats, etc.) from entering the restoration site. In August, nets were used to carefully capture turtles and relocate them within the marsh. Ten turtles were trapped, measured, tagged and released. Staff recorded two snapping turtles, each weighing over 50 pounds!

CVC continues to work through the fall, preparing the marsh for the next phase of restoration.



Snapping turtles are the largest turtles in the Credit River watershed

### **RATTRAY MARSH PUBLIC INFO SESSION**

Learn about efforts to restore the marsh and manage the threat from emerald ash borer.

**Wed. Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m.**

Green Glade Senior Public School, 1550 Green Glade, Mississauga

## MOTHER NATURE SHOWS HER TRUE COLOURS



Trees in Port Credit show a dazzling display of colour

The kids are settled back in school, there's a nip in the air and we collectively mourn the end of summer. Fall is here and with it comes mother nature's beautiful display of colour.

In order for trees to turn, daily temperatures need to be low enough and daylight hours need to be reduced. These factors can predict the timing of leaf coloration. The colour that each tree turns is largely based on the individual tree species and the specific geographic area.

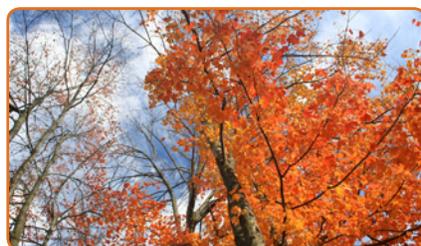
Generally speaking, maples produce bright red and orange. Ash, birch, and poplar yield a yellow colour. Oaks often produce a deep brown and coniferous species add a pop of green.

Put on that comfy sweater that's been neatly packed away for months and head outside to see the colours for yourself.

The Lake Ontario shoreline area in Mississauga has a number parks and natural places you can visit. JD Saddington Park, Lakeside Park and Rattray Marsh all offer great displays of colour and are right in our backyard.

For an even greater view, take a short drive north to one of CVC's conservation areas and immerse yourself in the colours of the season.

Forests at Belfountain, Limehouse, Silver Creek and Terra Cotta Conservation Areas are widely known for their fall colours. Visit [creditvalleyca.ca/enjoy-the-outdoors](https://creditvalleyca.ca/enjoy-the-outdoors) to learn more.



### What Our Neighbours Are Saying

 CreditValleyCA retweeted  
 **annabel** @freckledsun - Sep 26  
Planting #trees with students from @HickoryWoodsPS in @CityBrampton 4th year of restoring the forest @CVC\_CA

 CreditValleyCA retweeted  
 **Sarah Virro** @SarahVirro - Sep 25  
Most salmon are 4 years old when they journey up the #CreditRiver to spawn- Catch @AnwarKnight + @CVC\_CA with more on the #SalmonRun at Noon!

 CreditValleyCA retweeted  
 **Michaels HBM** @MichaelsHBM - Sep 24  
The team spent this morning with @ForestsOntario and @CVC\_CA planting trees at Rattray Marsh

 CreditValleyCA retweeted  
 **CVC Foundation** @cvcfoundation - Sep 13  
Official media release from today's funding announcement at Rattray Marsh with @StellaAmblerMP and @CVC\_CA [cvcfoundation.ca/mp-stella-ambler...](https://cvcfoundation.ca/mp-stella-ambler...)

Connect with us: @CVC\_CA.  
Use #LivingByTheLake for lake related tweets.

## LAKEVIEW WATERFRONT CONNECTION: *update*

Imagining the Lakeview Waterfront Connection, looking south at the new Serson Creek wetland. Illustration created July 16, 2013.



*The Lakeview Waterfront Connection (LWC) project will transform a degraded and inaccessible area of our shoreline into an inviting naturalized park with public access and wildlife habitat. The Region of Peel and CVC have submitted their environmental assessment (EA) to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for review.*

The LWC project team is continuously looking for ways to reach out to local residents to get their feedback on the project. Building on the success of outreach events in 2013, the team decided to engage and inform people

about the project through face-to-face interactions at Marie Curtis Park and Lakefront Promenade Park on different dates throughout the summer. Visitors had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in direct conversation with project staff. Hosting a booth at the Mississauga Waterfront Festival allowed the team to reach out to even more people who have a connection to the shoreline and the local area.

By the end of the summer, the project team had informed hundreds of residents about LWC. They provided updates on the status of the EA and answered questions about how the new green space will be constructed. The team received valuable feedback about specific features people hope to see within the new greenspace.



The LWC is a project of The Region of Peel and Credit Valley Conservation, with on-going review and support from Toronto and Region Conservation, the City of Mississauga, the City of Toronto and Ontario Power Generation. More information is available at [www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc).



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Credit Valley Conservation gratefully acknowledges financial support from our member municipalities for facilities, programs and services: the Regions of Peel and Halton; the Cities of Mississauga and Brampton; the Towns of Caledon, Erin, Halton Hills, Mono, Oakville and Orangeville; and the Townships of Amaranth and East Garafraxa.